AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the listing of claims as follows:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system implemented method for performing compliance checking on a request associated with a party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the party and an entity, the request complies with specified restrictions, the method comprising:

receiving [[via]] <u>by</u> a computer <u>compliance</u> system a compliance request having an associated party and indicating a particular instrument associated with an issuer;

querying via a ~~dynamically updated~~ compliance rules engine a list server to retrieve restrictions associated with the particular instrument from a collection of restrictions;

retrieving [[via]] <u>by</u> the computer <u>compliance</u> system a compliance rule set by the ~~dynamically updated~~ compliance rules engine, connected to one or more databases containing the associated party's profile information;

processing [[via]] <u>by</u> the computer <u>compliance</u> system the retrieved rule set to determine at least one applicable compliance rule selected based on the party's profile information, the profile reflecting at least the relationship between the associated party and the entity;

dynamically updating a baseline rule set, an additional rule set and a rule exceptions set via the compliance rules engine;

applying via the computer compliance system the determined applicable compliance rules using the retrieved restrictions to determine [[if]] when the compliance request complies with the restrictions; and

generating an electronic compliance request response message that includes [[the]] results of the compliance request rules application.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each compliance rule has an associated priority, the priority indicating an order in which the rules are applied.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of lists including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second list indicating restrictions related to non-public information, the priority of rules applying to the first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the restrictions are indicated in at least a first list and restrictions in the first list have an associated severity level; and

retrieving comprising retrieving restrictions from the first list wherein, if a plurality of restrictions associated with the particular instrument is in the first list, retrieving from the first list only the restriction associated with the particular instrument having the highest severity level.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein restrictions are transaction restrictions and each restriction has an associated severity level selected from a group comprising at least one of a low severity indicating that transactions are permitted for a party in a first category and not permitted for a party in a second category, and a high severity indicating that transactions are not permitted for any party.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the first category comprise customers of the entity and the second category comprises employees of the entity.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the severity group further comprises a medium severity indicating that transactions are permitted only with additional approval.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing a compliance rule set comprises:

accessing a baseline rule set;

accessing at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile; and

combining the accessed baseline rule set and the at least one additional rule set to form the compliance rule set.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

accessing rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile; and

removing rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compliance request is received from the party and the message is sent to the party.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compliance request is received from an electronic trading system and the output message is sent to the electronic trading system.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

logging compliance requests where a determination is made that the compliance request violates the restrictions;

re-executing the querying, retrieving and processing on a periodic basis for logged requests;

if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged request does not violate the restrictions, outputting the compliance request response message indicating the compliance request approval.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the entity comprises a company and the party comprises one of an employee of the company, a customer of the company, and the company.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compliance request comprises an electronic document containing data indicating a company name;

the method further comprising:

extracting the company name from the document and mapping the extracted company name to an associated instrument.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

embedding the compliance condition message in a representation of the

document.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer system implemented method for performing compliance checking on a transaction request associated with a party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the party and an entity, the transaction request complies with specified restrictions, the method comprising:

providing a collection of compliance rules, at least some compliance rules having an associated priority;

receiving [[via]] by the computer compliance system a transaction compliance request having an associated party and indicating a particular instrument associated with an issuer;

querying via a ~~dynamically updated~~ compliance rules engine a list server to retrieve transaction restrictions associated with a particular instrument from a collection of restrictions;

dynamically updating a baseline rule set, an additional rule set and a rule exceptions set via the compliance rules engine;

retrieving via the computer compliance system a profile associated with the party, the profile reflecting at least the relationship between the associated party and the entity;

generating via the computer compliance system a compliance rule set

identifying at least one applicable compliance rule in the collection of compliance rules by combining a baseline rule set and at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile;

comparing via the computer <u>compliance</u> system at least a portion of the rules in the compliance rule set in order of the associated rule priorities using the retrieved restrictions to determine [[if]] <u>when</u> the transaction request complies with the restrictions; and

generating an electronic compliance request response message that includes the results of the compliance request rules application.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of restricted transaction lists including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second list indicating restrictions related to non-public information; the priority of rules applying to the first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the generating further comprises accessing rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile and removing rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

logging transaction request where a determination is made that the transaction does not comply with the restrictions;

re-executing the retrieving, generating and comparing on a periodic basis for logged transaction requests; and

if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged transaction request does not violate the restrictions, outputting a message indicating approval of the transaction request.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the entity comprises a company and the party comprises one of an employee of the company, a customer of the company, and the company.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing compliance checking on a request associated with a party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the party and an entity, the request complies with specified restrictions, the system comprising:

a list server having access to data indicating financial instruments subject to restrictions and configured to receive a query indicating a particular instrument and return data indicating restrictions associated with the particular instrument;

a rules database comprising a plurality of compliance rules;

a profile database storing profile information for a plurality of parties, profiles reflecting at least the relationship between each respective party and the entity;

a rules engine connected to the rules database and configured to:

receive a compliance request indicating a particular instrument and having an associated party;

issue a query to the list server to obtain restrictions related to the particular instrument;

retrieve a compliance rule set identifying at least one compliance rule selected in accordance with a profile associated with the party, the profile reflecting at least the relationship between the party and the entity;

dynamically update a baseline rule set, an additional rule set and a rule exceptions set;

compare at least a portion of the rules in the compliance rule set using the retrieved restrictions to determine [[if]] when the request complies with the restrictions; and

output a message in electronic form indicating a compliance condition in accordance with results of the evaluating step.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the system further comprises an account database associating accounts with respective parties;

the request comprising a transaction request and specifying a transaction account;

the rules engine being further configured to access the account database using the specified transaction account to determine the party.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the restrictions are contained in a plurality of lists, wherein restrictions on a specific instrument can appear in multiple lists and multiple times in a single list;

the list server comprising a list cache configured to store transaction restriction data from the plurality of lists.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein each compliance rule has an associated priority, the rules engine being configured to evaluate rules identified by the compliance set in order of priority.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of lists including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second list indicating restrictions related to non-public information; the priority of rules applying to the first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

26.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:

    the restrictions are indicated in at least a first list and restrictions in the first list have an associated severity level; and

    the list server is configured to return from the first list only a restriction associated with the particular instrument having the highest severity if a plurality of restrictions associated with the particular instrument are in the first list.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the restrictions are transaction restrictions and each restriction has an associated severity level selected from a group comprising at least one of a low severity indicating that transactions are permitted for a party in a first category and not permitted for a party in a second category, and a high severity indicating that transactions are not permitted for any party.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the first category comprises customers of the entity and the second category comprises employees of the entity.

29.   (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the severity group further comprises a medium severity indicating that transactions are permitted only with additional approval.

30.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the rule engine is further configured to:

   access a baseline rule set;

   access at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile; and

   combine the accessed baseline rule set and the at least one additional rule set to form the compliance rule set.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the rule engine is further configured to:

   access rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile; and

   remove rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the rules engine is further configured to:

   log requests where a determination is made that the request violates the restrictions;

re-execute request a compliance checks on a periodic basis for logged requests; and

if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged request is does not violate the restrictions, output a message indicating the request approval.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

a document processor in communication with the rule engine and receiving a document in electronic-form as input;

the document processor being configured to:

extract company names from the document;

map the extracted company names to product identifiers;

issue compliance requests to the rules engine for the product identifiers; and

produce an output indicating if the document does not comply with the restriction in accordance with the compliance condition message output from the rules engine.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the output of the document processor comprises a representation of the document having embedded compliance condition data therein.

35.   (Withdrawn) A processor-implemented method for performing compliance clearance of a requested transaction, comprising:

(a) receiving a set of inputs to a transaction request form via a communications network, the set of inputs including at least a participant identifier and a security identifier for a security involved in a requested transaction;

(b) retrieving at least one security status list from a list server based on the security identifier, wherein the security status list comprises a security status list identifier and a list of security identifiers associated with securities that are subject to a given transactional status;

(c) retrieving at least one participant profile from a user profile database based on the participant identifier;

(d) extracting a plurality of hierarchically ordered participant characteristics from the at least one participant profile;

(e) dynamically generating a compliance ruleset based on the plurality of hierarchically ordered participant characteristics by

(i) selecting a baseline ruleset based on a most-general participant characteristic and

(ii) selecting at least one auxiliary ruleset based on a specific participant characteristic,

(iii) wherein the compliance ruleset comprises a plurality of rules configured as logical expressions which take as inputs at least one security status list identifier, and

(iv) wherein the plurality of rules have an associated evaluation order specifying the order in which the rules are to be evaluated;

(f) evaluating the plurality of rules in the compliance ruleset based at least on the security status list identifier to generate a compliance clearance status;

(g) generating a compliance clearance status data record comprising the compliance clearance status in association with the requested transaction; and

(h) periodically reevaluating the plurality of rules in the compliance ruleset for a compliance clearance status indicating a rejected transaction.